

CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 203.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

COMPUTERS FOR VETERANS AND STUDENTS ACT OF 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3544) to require the Administrator of General Services to transfer certain surplus computers and technology equipment to nonprofit computer refurbishers for repair, distribution, and return, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3544

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Computers for Veterans and Students Act of 2022” or the “COVS Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Access to computers and computer technology is indispensable for success in the 21st century. Millions of Americans do not regularly use a computer and research shows that substantial disparities remain in both internet use and the quality of access with the digital divide concentrated among older, less educated, less affluent populations, especially veterans, low-income students, and senior citizens.

(2) The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the gap between those with computer access and those without. Millions of students, their families, and workers from across the economy were unable to do schoolwork, work remotely from home, or connect to loved ones and their communities because of the digital divide.

(3) Any Federal program that distributes surplus Federal computers to a public school, an educational nonprofit, or a nonprofit computer refurbisher for repair and distribution would benefit from a partnership with a nonprofit organization, whose mission is bridging the digital divide.

SEC. 3. REFURBISHMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.

(a) GSA TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after State agencies for surplus property have been given an opportunity to review surplus computer or technology equipment that has been determined to be repairable, the Administrator shall transfer to participating nonprofit computer refurbishers such equipment with full title to such equipment, for repair and distribution in accordance with subsection (c)(1).

(2) INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT REFURBISHED.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that receives surplus computer or technology equipment under this subsection

shall provide the Administrator with any information the Administrator determines to be necessary for required reporting, including information about the distribution of such equipment.

(b) PARTNERSHIP.—The Administrator may establish a partnership with non-governmental entities, at no cost, to—

(1) facilitate the identification of nonprofit computer refurbishers and the distribution of surplus computer or technology equipment under this section; and

(2) facilitate the participation of nonprofit computer refurbishers under this section.

(c) REPAIR AND DISTRIBUTION.—

(1) DISTRIBUTION TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE.—A nonprofit computer refurbisher that receives equipment under subsection (a) shall repair and distribute such equipment to an educational institution, a veteran, an individual with a disability, a low-income individual, a student, or a senior in need that is residing or based in the United States.

(2) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Any nonprofit computer refurbisher that receives any equipment under subsection (a) shall offer training programs on the use of computers and technology equipment for any of the following:

- (A) Educational institutions.
- (B) Veterans.
- (C) Individuals with disabilities.
- (D) Low-income individuals.
- (E) Students.
- (F) Seniors.

(d) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter for the next 4 years, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Administrator under this Act.

(e) AGENCY REPORTS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall make a report available to the public on the number of repairable computers that were sent to recycling, abandoned, or destroyed.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede the requirements of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-480; 15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) DIGITAL DIVIDE.—The term “digital divide” means the gap between those who have an internet-connected computer and the skills to use the computer and those who do not.

(3) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term “educational institution” means—

(A) any public or private child care center, preschool, elementary school, secondary school, accredited institution of vocational or professional education, or institution of higher education;

(B) in the case of an accredited institution of vocational or professional education or an institution of higher education composed of more than one school, college, or department that is administratively a separate unit, each such school, college, or department; and

(C) a home school (whether treated as a home school or a private school for purposes of applicable State law).

(4) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agency” has the meaning given the term “federal agency” in section 102 of title 40, United States Code.

(5) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has

the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(7) LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.—The term “low income individual” has the meaning given such term in section 351 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 689).

(8) NONPROFIT COMPUTER REFURBISHER.—The term “nonprofit computer refurbisher” means a nonprofit organization that primarily works to improve access to information and communication technology in their mission to bridge the digital divide.

(9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term “nonprofit organization” means an organization that is described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(10) REPAIRABLE.—The term “repairable” means property that is unusable in its current state but can be economically repaired.

(11) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

(12) SENIOR.—The term “senior” means an individual who is 65 years of age or older.

(13) SENIOR IN NEED.—The term “senior in need” means a senior who experiences cultural, social, or geographical isolation that—

(A) restricts the ability of the senior to perform normal daily tasks; or

(B) threatens the capacity of the senior to live independently.

(14) STATE AGENCY FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY.—The term “State agency for surplus property” has the meaning given the term “state agency” under section 549 of title 40, United States Code.

(15) STUDENT.—The term “student” means any individual enrolled in an educational institution, but not a public or private child care center.

(16) SURPLUS COMPUTER OR TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.—The term “surplus computer or technology equipment” means computer or technology equipment that is property described under section 549(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code.

(17) TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT.—The term “technology equipment” means any physical asset related to a computer or information technology, including any peripheral component, tablet, communication device (such as a router, server, or cell phone), printer, scanner, uninterruptible power source, cable, or connection.

(18) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(h) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator may issue regulations that are necessary and appropriate to implement this section.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3544, the Computers for Veterans and Students Act.

Technology pervades every aspect of modern life, and the gulf between those who have access to technology and those who do not continues to widen. Today, millions of Americans still lack access to home-based, internet-connected computers and technology equipment. In fact, according to the Census Bureau, only 78 percent of households in the U.S. owned a desktop or laptop computer in 2018, leaving tens of millions of households without the resources that are essential for success in the modern economy.

These disparities were made worse by the coronavirus pandemic, especially among veterans, low-income students, and seniors. This digital divide has tangible, life-changing, and often heartbreaking consequences, preventing people of all ages from completing schoolwork, working remotely, or connecting with their loved ones.

H.R. 3544 will help address these disparities by ensuring surplus Federal computers find their way to the households that need them most.

The bill requires the General Services Administration to transfer surplus computer and technology equipment from Federal agencies to nonprofit computer refurbishers to repair and distribute to students and educational institutions, low-income individuals, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and seniors in need.

The bill also requires these refurbishers to offer relevant computer and technology training to recipients, further reducing barriers presented by the digital divide.

I thank Congresswoman ABIGAIL SPANBERGER for leading this important bipartisan legislation, along with Representatives ROB WITTMAN and ELAINE LURIA. Representative SPANBERGER worked tirelessly to bring the voices of veterans and students in her district here to the Halls of Congress as she wrote and championed this bill.

For those who lack access to internet-connected computers and the skills to use them, H.R. 3544 will unlock doors to new opportunities. It will also bring a greater return on investment for the American taxpayer, ensuring Federal information technology assets are used to their full potential in the fight to close the digital divide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of technology to all Americans. Access to computers and computer technology is necessary for success in the modern world. This became even more critical during the height of the pandemic when many Americans struggled to juggle Zoom meetings and help their children with remote school.

That is why this bill is important. It will help Americans get the access they need.

H.R. 3544, the Computers for Veterans and Students Act, will repurpose surplus Federal IT equipment to help American veterans, students, disabled individuals, low-income households, seniors in need, and educational institutions of all kinds.

H.R. 3544 requires the General Services Administration to transfer computers and tech equipment in need of repair to nonprofit computer refurbishers. These third-party refurbishers will then repair and distribute the IT equipment directly to veterans, students, and others in need.

The bill also obligates these third-party refurbishers to offer training programs on the use of the technology being distributed.

Those with access to computers and an understanding of how to use technology can enjoy many benefits, but a lack of such access and understanding presents significant challenges. Americans need to be able to conduct online research for a school project, connect with loved ones, or find and keep a steady job.

I appreciate Representatives ABIGAIL SPANBERGER and ROB WITTMAN for their leadership on this legislation. I encourage my colleagues to help our Nation's veterans and students by supporting H.R. 3544.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I note that Congress is expected to pay tribute to veterans when we honor retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel "Woody" Williams. Woody, the last surviving World War II veteran who received a Medal of Honor, will lie in honor this week in the U.S. Capitol.

In the spirit of that event, let us pay tribute to all those who have served our Nation and all those who will serve our Nation in the future.

Instead of letting technology that American taxpayers have already invested in go to waste, the bipartisan Computers for Veterans and Students Act will get such repairable government technology into the lives of Americans in need.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of

H.R. 3544, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3544, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST SERGEANT LEONARD A. FUNK, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5794) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 850 Walnut Street in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, as the "First Sergeant Leonard A. Funk, Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5794

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FIRST SERGEANT LEONARD A. FUNK, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 850 Walnut Street in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "First Sergeant Leonard A. Funk, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "First Sergeant Leonard A. Funk, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5794, a bill to honor First Sergeant Leonard Funk.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5794.